

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00468 071126Z

ACTION AF-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0468

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH FONMIN WILLS MARCH 2 AND 4 ABOUT  
HIS WASHINGTON VISIT

SUMMARY: DURING MEETINGS WITH ME ON MARCH 2 AND 4,  
WILLS DISCUSSED PROBLEMS IN US-GUYANESE RELATIONS  
AS PART OF HIS PREPARATION FOR TALKS IN  
WASHINGTON. HE DEFENDED HIS GOVT'S VOTING PATTERN  
AT THE UN, ALLEGING THAT THE US HAD BEEN SIDETRACKED  
BY DETENTE INTO AN ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHEREAS THE SOVIETS HAD  
SKILLFULLY ADJUSTED THEIR POSITIONS TO FIND COMMON  
GROUND WITH LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE COMMENTED  
AGAIN ON DIPLOMATIC STYLE AND URGED THAT THE US  
CONSULT WITH GUYANA AND OTHER KEY NON-ALIGNED NATIONS  
WHILE IT DEVELOPS POSITIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.  
HE INTENDS TO SEEK REASSURANCE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT CIA  
ACTIVITIES. HE STRESSED AGAIN THE GO'S DETERMINATION TO  
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MEETINGS HELD AT FONMIN WILLS' REQUEST ON  
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 00468 071126Z

MARCH 2 AND 4, WE DISCUSSED HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON  
AND OTHER MATTERS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE TRIP.  
THIS CABLE COVERS ONLY THOSE ASPECTS OF OUR TALKS WHICH  
ARE RELEVANT TO HIS TRIP AND US-GOG RELATIONS.

2. ESPECIALLY DURING THE MARCH 2 MEETING, HE SHOWED  
SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT HIS TRIP, REFLECTING BOTH

HIS UNCERTAINTY OF HOW HE WOULD BE RECEIVED AND HOW THE TRIP WILL BE VIEWED IN GUYANA AFTER HIS RETURN. DURING THE MARCH 2 MEETING I AGAIN IMPRESSED UPON HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AGREED-UPON GOG POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH US OFFICIALS WOULD DISCUSS, AS HE SEEMED INCLINED TO CONCENTRATE IN WASHINGTON ON EXPLANATIONS OF PREVIOUS GUYANESE ACTIONS RATHER THAN ON WHAT THE GOG WILL DO IN THE FUTURE.

3. ON THE MATTER OF GUYANA'S RECORD AT THE UNITED NATIONS, HE INSISTED THAT GUYANA DID NOT DELIBERATELY ADOPT ANTI-US POSITIONS, AND THAT IT HAS REMAINED STRICTLY NON-ALIGNED. HIS PERSPECTIVE ON US PROBLEMS AT THE UN WAS THAT THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THEIR CHIEF ANTAGONIST AT THE UN WAS THE SOVIET UNION. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF DETENTE WITH THE USSR, THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN DRAWN INTO QUARRELING WITH LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION, MEANWHILE, HAS SKILLFULLY ADJUSTED ITSELF AND ITS POLICIES TO COINCIDE ON MANY ISSUES WITH THOSE SUPPORTED BY THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TRY TO GET OUT OF THE ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ONLY THE SOVIET UNION BENEFITTED FROM THIS SITUATION.

4. IN ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE OBJECTIVES THAT GUYANA MIGHT PURSUE IN COMMON WITH THE US, WILLS SUGGESTED THAT GUYANA COULD HELP THE US SEEK WORLD PEACE AND SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN THE US AND THE LESS DEVELOPED WORLD. HE SAID GUYANA WANTS TO FEEL THAT ITS ADVICE IS VALUED, AND WOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03      GEORGE 00468 071126Z

WELCOME CONSULTATION WHILE THE US IS SHAPING ITS POSITIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. HE PRAISED THE US CONSULTATION THAT PRECEDED THE SRI LANKA NAM SUMMIT LAST YEAR AND CONTRASTED IT WITH THE ABSENCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION ON THE CONTENTS OF THE PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS THE US HAD MADE AT THE NAIROBI UNCTAD CONFERENCE LAST JUNE.

5. INVARIABLY, WILLS TURNS TO DISCUSSION OF DIPLOMATIC STYLE AND ATTITUDE. HE QUOTED EX-SECRETARY KISSINGER AS HAVING TOLD HIM THAT "700,000 GUYANESE SOCIALISTS DO NOT BOTHER US." WILLS SAID HE KNEW THESE WORDS WERE INTENDED TO BE REASSURING ABOUT US INTENTIONS BUT IN REALITY THEY WERE INSULTING. FOR HIM THE IMPLICATION HAD BEEN THAT THE NUMBER OF GUYANESE WAS SO INSIGNIFICANT THAT THEY DID NOT MATTER TO KISSINGER, BUT HAD THERE BEEN 12 MILLION GUYANESE SOCIALISTS IT MIGHT HAVE MATTERED.

6. WILLS SAID HE HOPES TO GET SOME REASSURANCE IN

WASHINGTON ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES. HE SAID HE TRUSTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT THE DOMESTIC SCANDALS THAT HAD PARALYZED THE WORLD'S GREATEST POWER (WATERGATE AND LATER THE HEARINGS ON CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES) SHOWED THAT CONTROL HAD NOT BEEN EXERCISED OVER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. THE CIA SEEMED TO BE "AN ALL-PERVASIVE FORCE WHICH COULD DETERMINE LIFE OR DEATH OR DESTABLIZE GOVERNMENTS."

7. WILLS EMPHASIZED THAT SINCE JANUARY 20 THE GOG HAD SHOWN IN MANY WAYS ITS INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, AND THAT HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH ME WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE. HE WANTED US OFFICIALS TO KNOW THAT THE PRESENT GUYANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEVER FORM PART OF A SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, WHEREAS THAT WAS A GOAL OF THE OPPOSITION.

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PAGE 04      GEORGE 00468 071126Z

8. COMMENT: DURING OUR MARCH 4 MEETING WILLS WAS PREPARING FOR A MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER REID CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON TRIP. HE ASKED ME TO MEET AGAIN WITH HIM SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, TO REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH BURNHAM.  
BLACKEN

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